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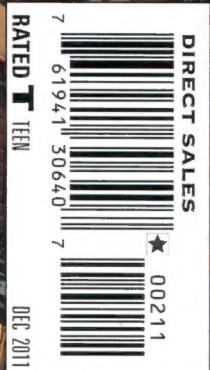
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# **BATMAN**



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# **BATMAN**



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# BATMAN



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The original  
Wayne Tower.

If you came to Gotham city today, right now, and took a tour of the building, here are some things your guide would tell you:

The tower was constructed in 1888, under the watch of my great, great grandfather Alan Wayne.

He built the tower to serve as a symbol of welcome to people coming to Gotham. And, as your guide will point out, from the ground up, it's designed to give visitors like you the feeling that they're cared for and protected.



For example, your guide will say, the building has twelve gargoyle "guardians," as Alan insisted they be called—one to watch over each passageway into the city.



The five guardians at the First tier were placed there to watch over the five original gateways into Gotham—the three bridges and two tunnels.



Higher up the tower is a ring of seven guardians, one to protect each of the seven train lines that converge at Union Station, below Wayne Tower's base.



And at the top of the tower is the observation deck, which Alan insisted remain free and open to the public every weekend, all year round.



For the windows, Alan demanded that only the best glass be used. A kind of double-bonded, laminated float glass, designed to be crystal-quality, weatherproof. And, most important, unbreakable.

Unbreakable, that is, unless--like the assassin who just kicked me through them--you know how to hit the glass just right.

Make impact at the edge of the plate, rather than the center, where it's designed to bend and flex.

The throwing knives are perfectly placed, too. Lodged tight in my brachial arteries.

The pain and blood loss make it almost impossible to grab on to anything to break my fall...

...impossible to do anything.

Except bleed and drop...

...and watch the city rise up to greet me.

24 HOURS EARLIER...

...I'M POSITIVE! I HIT HIM WITH  
TWO POUNDS OF SEMTEX.  
TWO POUNDS!

SAY  
WHAT YOU WANT, I'LL  
SPIKE THE BALL WHEN  
WE'RE OVER THE HARBOR.  
OUR GUY IS SUPPOSED TO  
BE WAITING JUST PAST  
THE STRAITS TO TAKE  
THE STATUES.



IT IS. BUT HE  
DESTROYED THE  
CORIXIAL WITH THAT  
"BAT" THING.

YOU  
WANT FASTER?  
DUMP A FEW OF  
THE PRETTY  
LADIES.

WHY ARE  
WE GOING SO  
DAMN SLOW?  
I THOUGHT THIS  
THING WAS  
SUPPOSED TO  
CRUISE AT  
TWO-HUNDRED  
KNOTS!

BUT OUR GUY  
SAID ALL TEN OF THESE  
THINGS FROM THE  
HELLENISTIC WING. TEN.

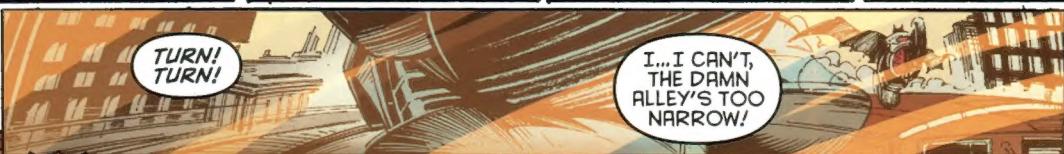
HE ISN'T  
THE ONE ABOUT  
TO GO DOWN IN  
THE MIDDLE OF THE  
AVENUE. START  
TOSSING  
THEM!

HELL, I  
NEVER WAS MUCH  
FOR PALE GIRLS,  
ANYHOW.

AND AT  
LEAST THESE  
ONES WON'T SCREA--

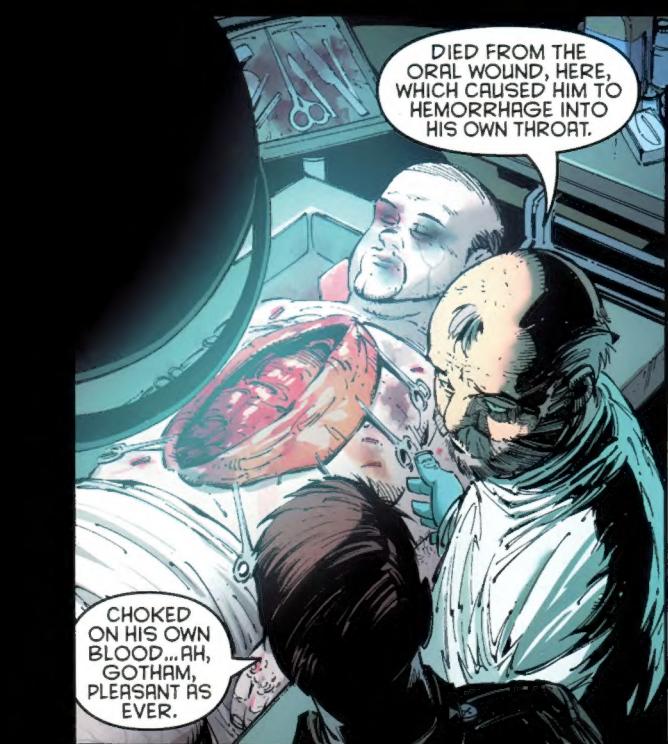
# CRASH







I'M AFRAID THERE'S LITTLE MORE TO RELAY THAN THE OBVIOUS. OUR JOHN DOE WAS STABBED MULTIPLE TIMES, LIKELY IN AN ACT OF TORTURE.



DIED FROM THE ORAL WOUND, HERE, WHICH CAUSED HIM TO HEMORRHAGE INTO HIS OWN THROAT.



I SHOULD BE GOING. THEY'RE WAITING ON ME DOWN IN BURNS. HIT THE LIGHTS ON--



CHOKED ON HIS OWN BLOOD...AH, GOTHAM, PLEASANT AS EVER.



--MY WAY OUT, BILL, DON'T YOU THINK I KNOW THE DRILL BY NOW?

'NIGHT, COMMISSIONER.'



WELL?



WE KNOW NOTHING ABOUT HIM. EXCEPT HE MADE A PRETTY DECENT DARTBOARD FOR SOMEONE.

HERE, THERE'S EXTENSIVE SCAR TISSUE AROUND THE RIBS AND ABDOMEN... CALCIFICATION AT HIS BROW, SIDE OF HIS SKULL.

HUH. "THE PUGILIST'S BEAUTY MARKS." YOU THINK OUR JOHN DOE WAS A FIGHTER IN HIS GLORY DAYS?

MAYBE. BUT HE'S GOT MORE CALLOUS MATERIAL AROUND HIS PALMS AND WRISTS THAN HIS KNUCKLES. DEFENSIVE SCARRING.



RIGHT  
WISDOM TOOTH.  
GOT IT.

HUH...  
TAKE A  
LOOK.

SAME EMBLEM  
ON THE THROWING  
KNIVES USED TO  
KILL HIM.

IT'S AN  
ATHENIAN OWL. IT  
APPEARED ON COINS  
IN ANCIENT GREECE.  
IT WAS A SYMBOL  
OF WEALTH AND  
POWER.

"BEWARE  
THE COURT OF  
OWLS, THAT WATCHES  
ALL THE TIME, RULING  
GOTHAM FROM A SHADOWED  
PERCH, BEHIND GRANITE  
AND LIME. THEY WATCH  
YOU AT YOUR HEARTH, THEY  
WATCH YOU IN YOUR BED,  
SPEAK NOT A WHISPERED  
WORD OF THEM,  
OR--"

--THEY'LL  
SEND THE TALON  
FOR YOUR  
HEAD."

I KNOW THE  
NURSERY RHYME, JIM.  
BUT THE COURT OF  
OWLS IS JUST A  
LEGEND.

TO BE BLUNT,  
SO WERE YOU FOR  
A WHILE.

THEY DON'T  
EXIST.

AND YOU  
KNOW THAT  
BECAUSE...

I JUST  
KNOW.

WELL, WHOEVER  
THE KILLER IS, HE WANTS  
US TO BELIEVE THE  
GHOST STORY.

SO WHAT WE'VE GOT IS A VICTIM  
WHO WAS SOME KIND OF SECRET  
HIGH-LEVEL BAD-GUY TRAINER, A  
KILLER WHO'S EVEN TOUGHER  
THAN HIM, APPARENTLY OUT  
TO GET BRUCE WAYNE...

...AND ALL WE REALLY  
KNOW ABOUT EITHER OF  
THEM IS THAT THEY HAVE A  
THING FOR OWLS.

AND THE TISSUE BENEATH  
THE VICTIM'S FINGERNAILS--  
FORENSICS CAME BACK EMPTY-  
HANDED. ANYTHING ON  
YOUR END?

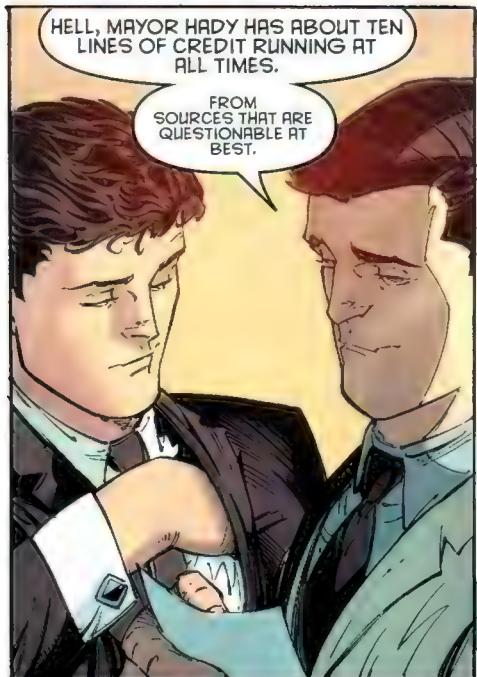
NO...

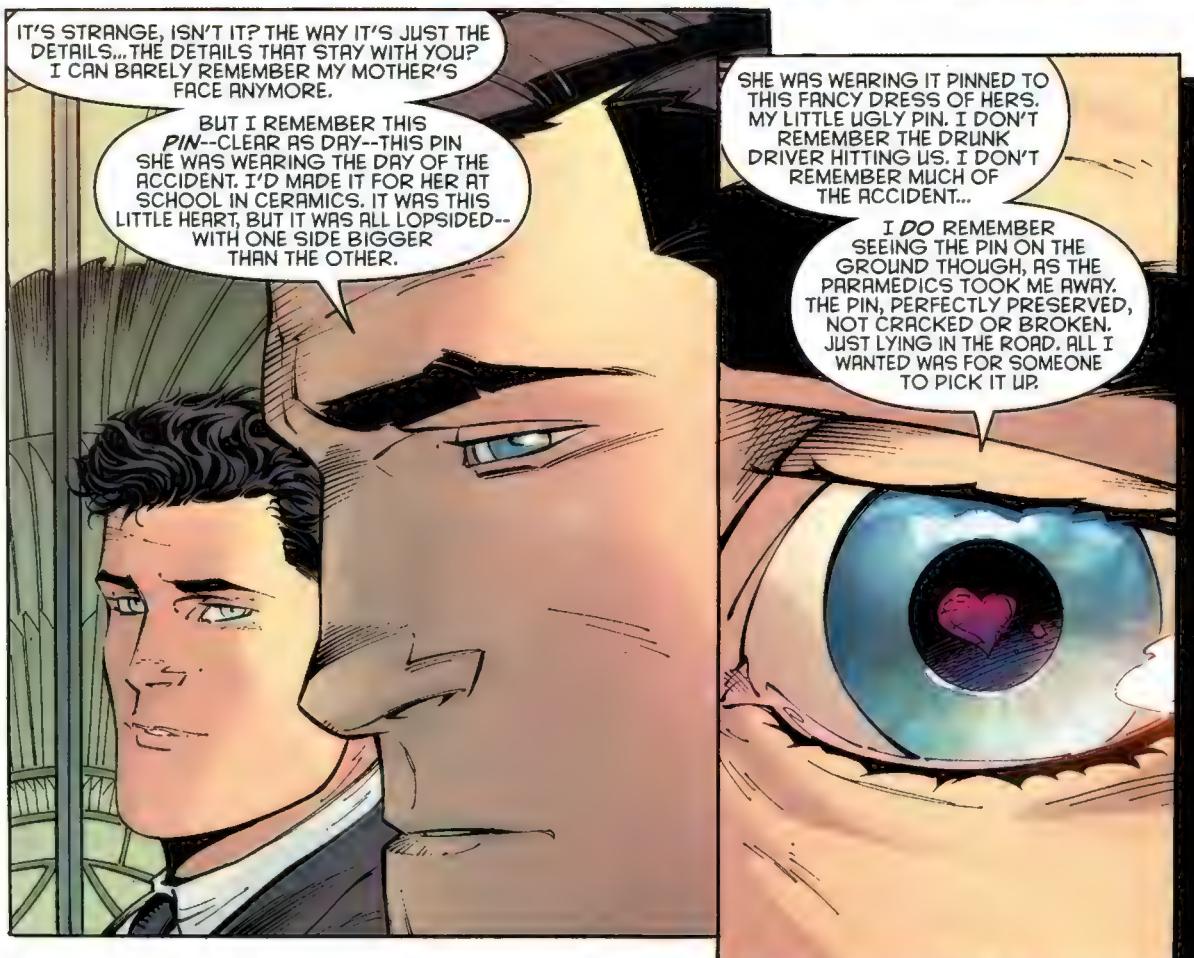
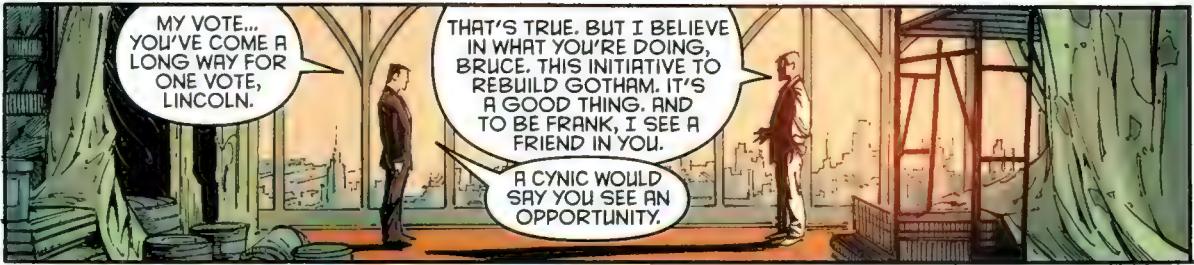
KNOCK  
KNOCK.

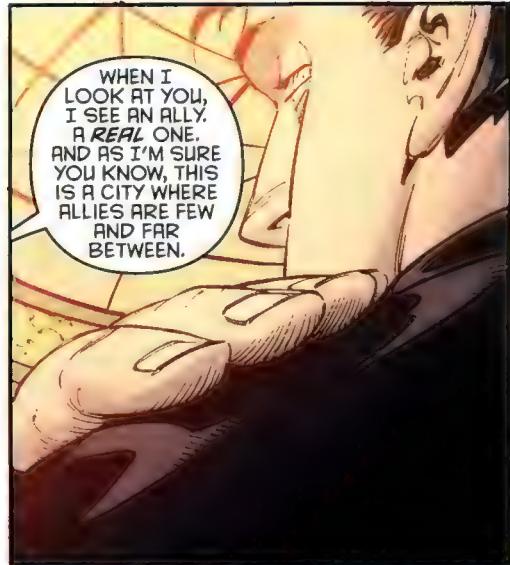
...BUT I'M  
LOOKING INTO  
IT. I'LL BE IN  
TOUCH.











*RASH*

WHAT THE--

YOU...  
IF YOU THINK  
YOU CAN SCARE--

UNH!

THUCK

LINCOLN!

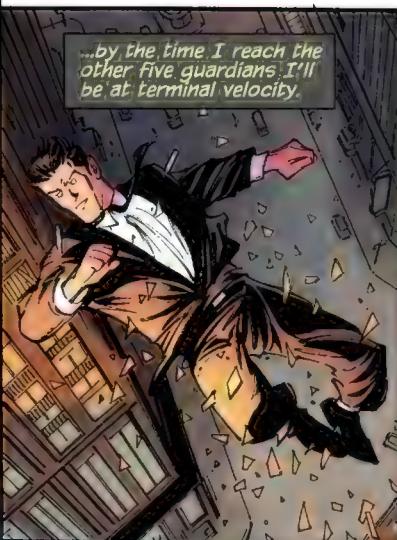
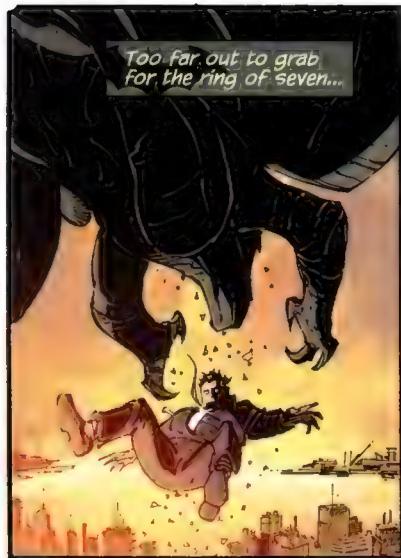




Go for strikes that look like lucky blows.









Something your tour guide wouldn't mention, either. Because there's one guardian people don't tell you about, when you visit.

There's something I didn't mention earlier, about the design of Old Wayne Tower.



They don't bother to mention it, because it was added later, in 1930, and because it sits in the middle of the building and can't be seen from the elevators or the deck.



The thirteenth guardian. Installed by Alan's son, Henry, my great-grandfather.

The guardian for visitors to Gotham arriving by air.



Whoever it was that just  
tried to kill me, he was good.

But he made  
one mistake.



But I'm the  
only legend this  
city needs.

In many ways,  
it's my oldest  
and truest friend.

And it knows me better than  
anyone, just as I know it.

# TRUST FALL

Writer  
**SCOTT  
SNYDER**  
Pencils  
**GREG  
CAPULLO**

Inks  
**JONATHAN  
GLAPION**  
Colors  
**FCO**

Letters  
**RICHARD STARKINGS &  
COMICRAFT'S JIMMY  
BETANCOURT**

Assistant Editor  
**KATIE KUBERT**

Associate Editor  
**JANELLE ASSELIN**

Editor  
**MIKE MARTS**

Cover By

**CAPULLO & FCO**

Variant Cover By

**JIM LEE**

**SCOTT WILLIAMS &  
ALEX SINCLAIR**

Batman

Created by

**BOB KANE**



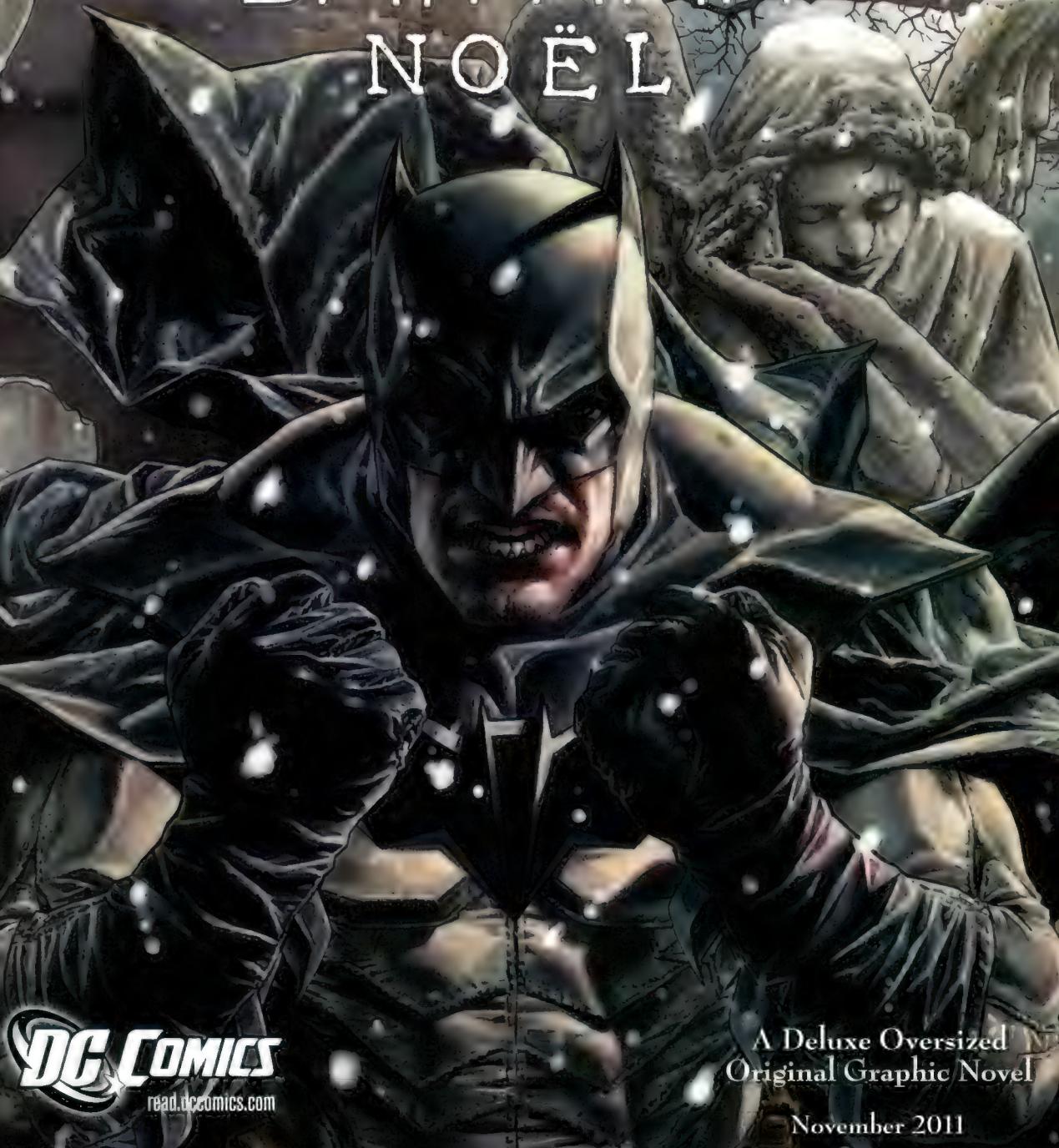
From the artist of THE NEW YORK TIMES Bestselling Graphic Novel JOKER



LEE BERMEJO

BATMAN

NOËL



**DC COMICS**  
read.dccomics.com

A Deluxe Oversized  
Original Graphic Novel

November 2011

SCUM. YOU NEVER CEASE TO AMAZE ME. DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT WAS IN THAT BAG YOU DELIVERED?!?

# BATMAN NOËL

SPECIAL SNEAK PREVIEW  
STORY AND ART BY LEE BERMEJO  
COLORS BY BARBARA CIARDO  
LETTERS BY TODD KLEIN

YOU SHOULD BE GOING TO JAIL TONIGHT.

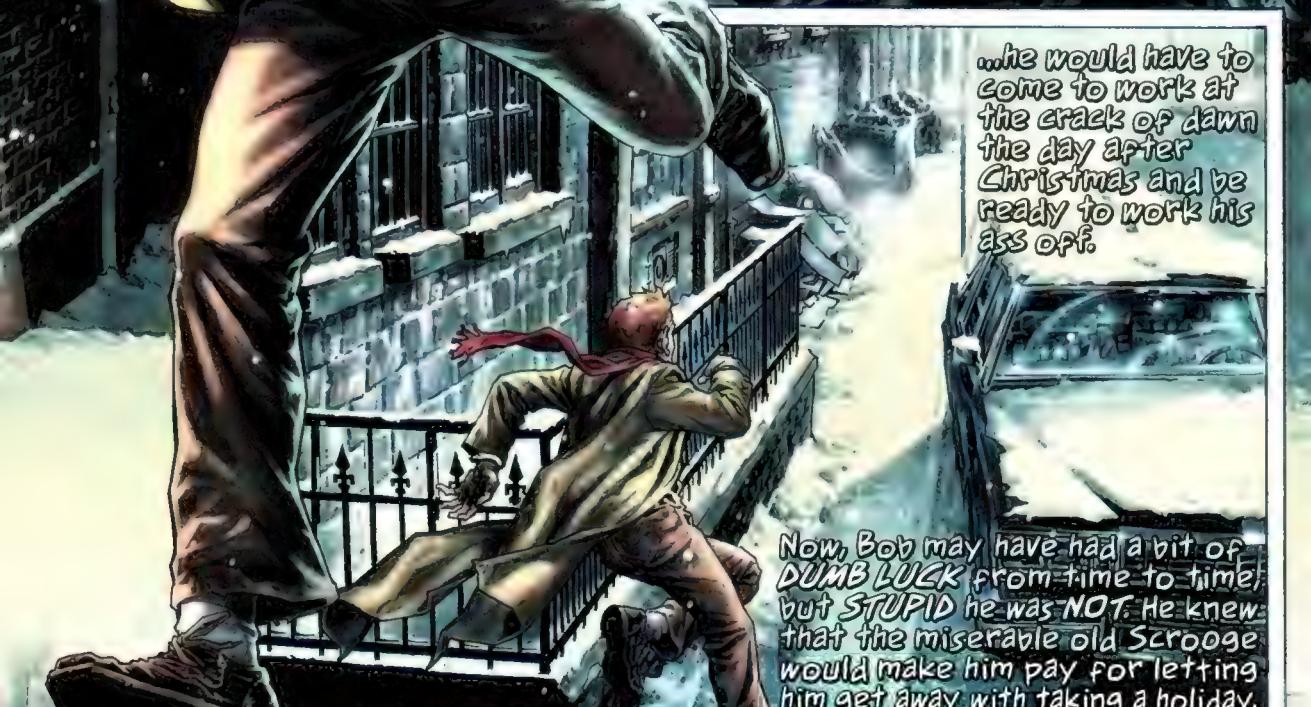
CONSIDER YOURSELF LUCKY THAT YOU MAKE A BETTER PIECE OF LIVE BAIT THAN JAILBAIT.

Bob, being the good guy that he was...

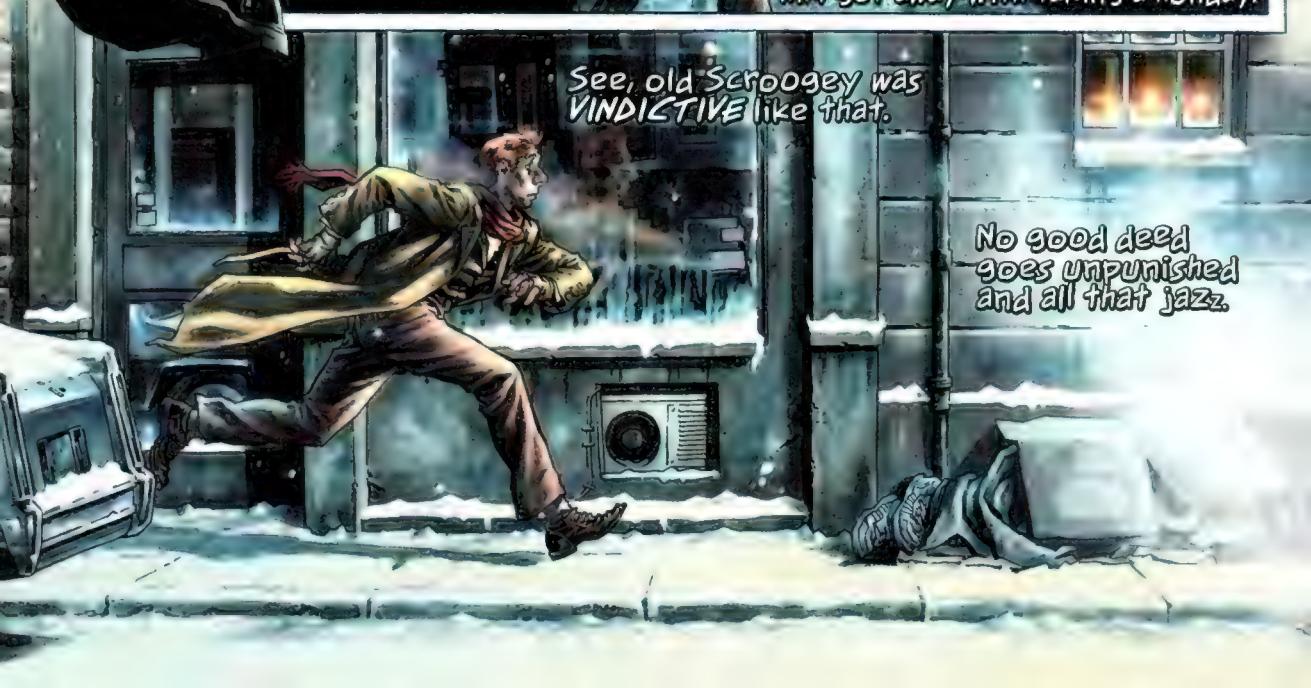
...considered himself lucky for a guy DOWN on his luck.



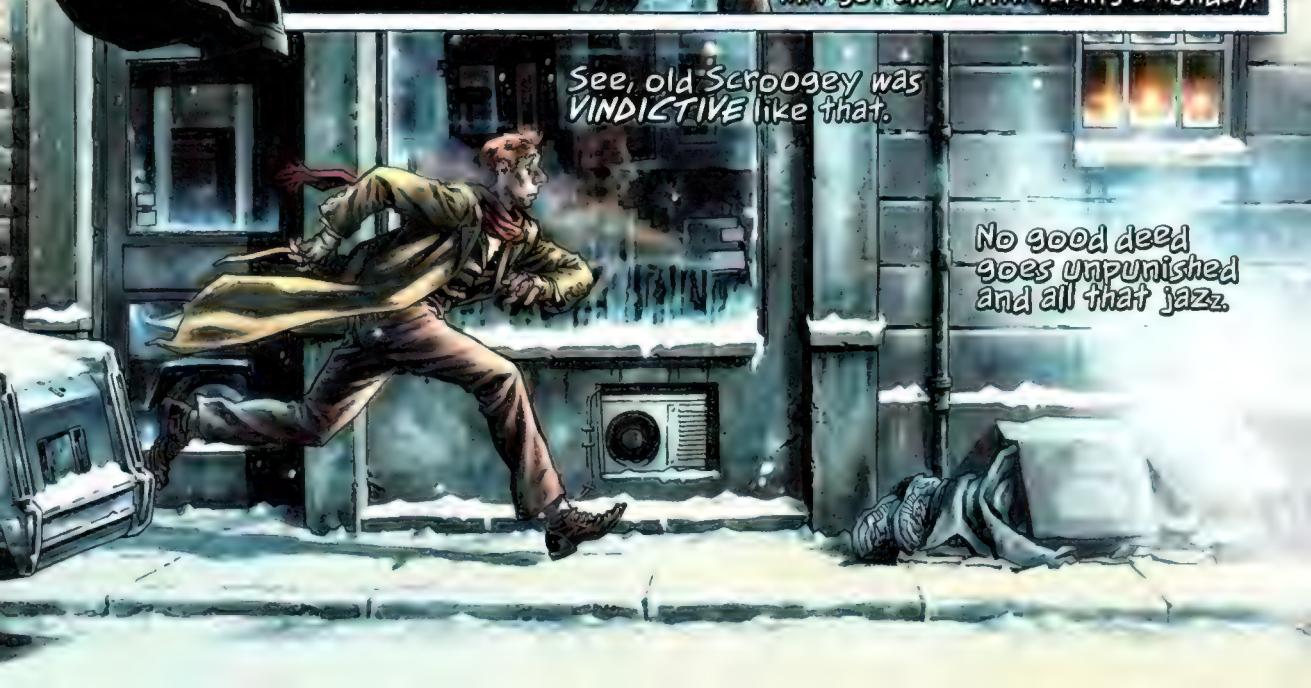
Long story short, he managed to convince Scrooge to give him the day off. Insurance issues or something. There was one condition...



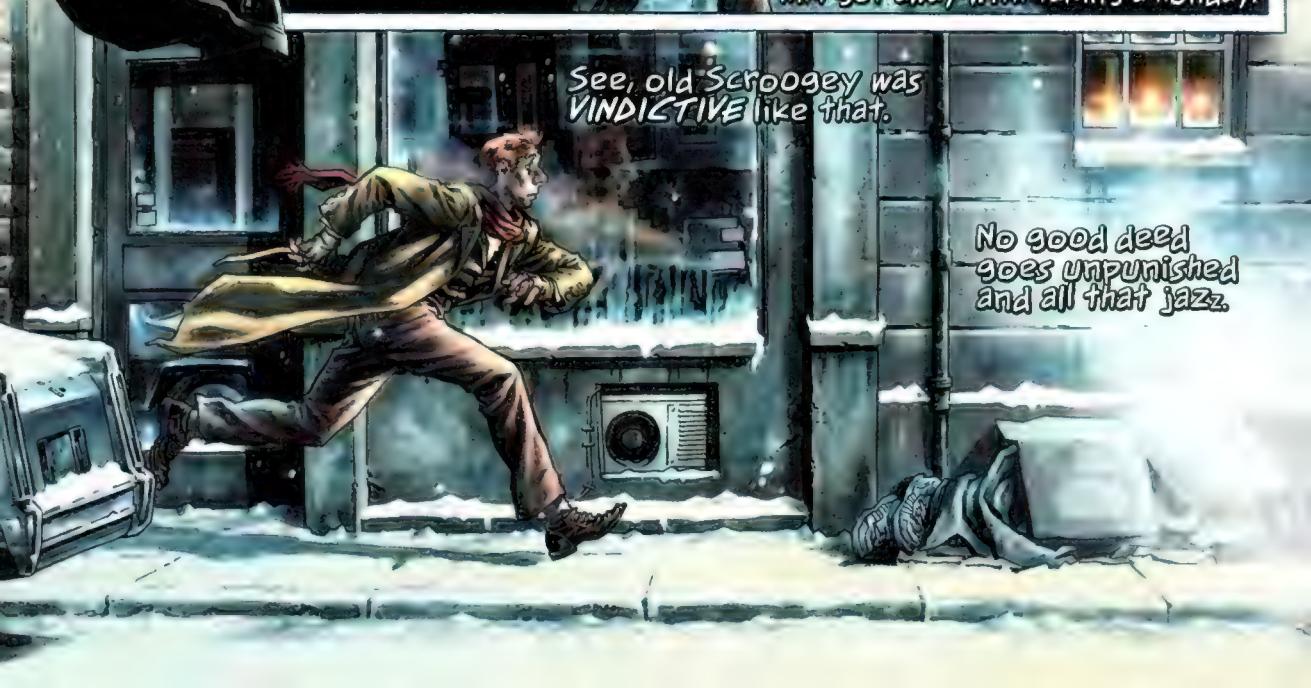
...he would have to come to work at the crack of dawn the day after Christmas and be ready to work his ass off.



Now, Bob may have had a bit of DUMB LUCK from time to time, but STUPID he was NOT. He knew that the miserable old Scrooge would make him pay for letting him get away with taking a holiday.



See, old Scroogey was VINDICTIVE like that.



No good deed goes unpunished and all that jazz.

Bob was afraid of him,  
no doubt about that.  
Was a time he woulda  
just QUIT.

That was before the KID,  
though. He had responsi-  
bilities now, stuff you  
can't just run away from.  
Seemed like everyone and  
**EVERYTHING** constantly  
reminded Bob of how  
**LIMITED** his options  
were.

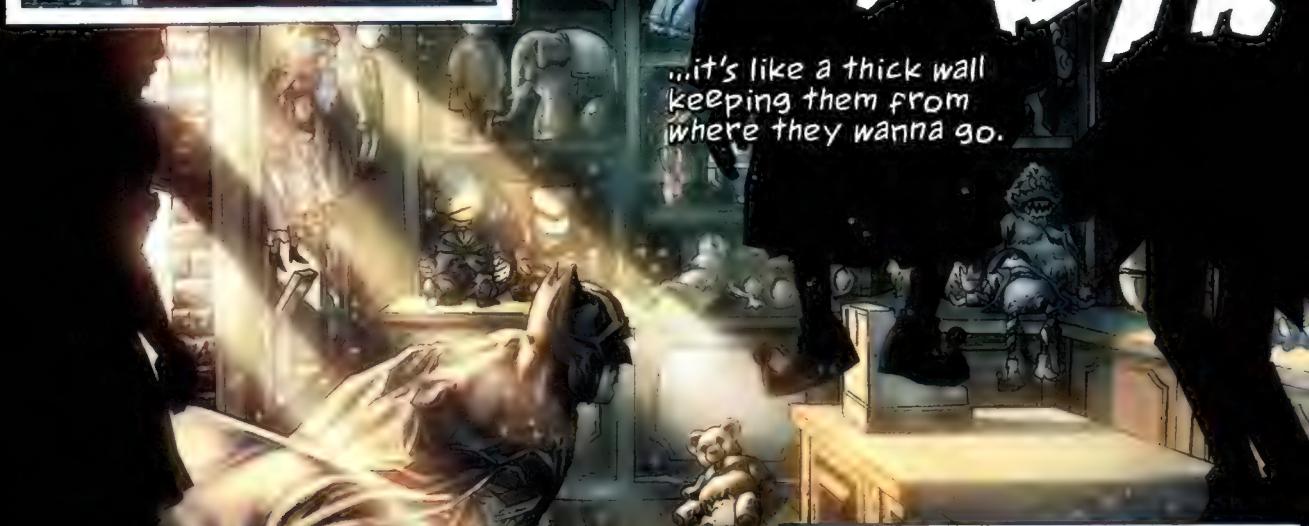
The thought followed  
him like a dog tracking  
his SCENT...

...and the dog was  
big and SCARY.

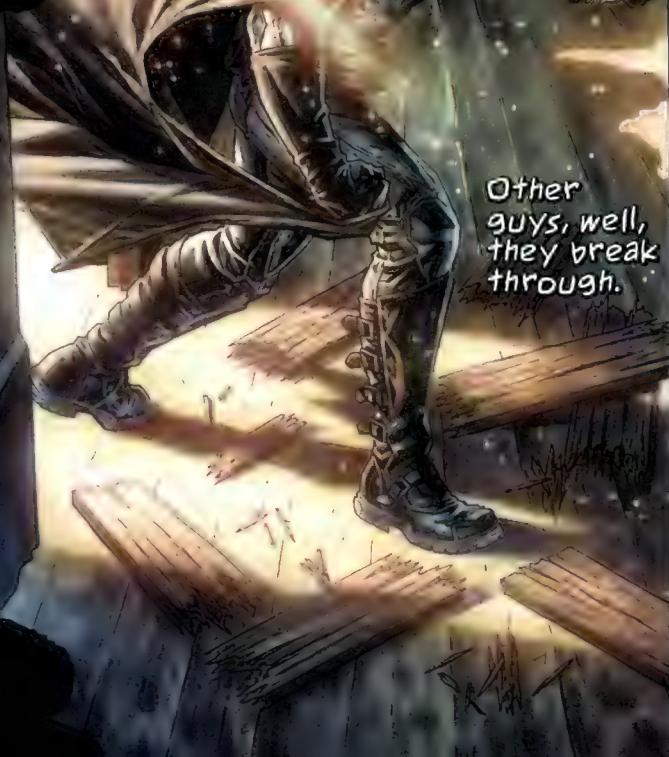
Fear is a funny thing, though.  
Some guys can get so scared  
that they let that fear stop  
'em in their **TRACKS**...



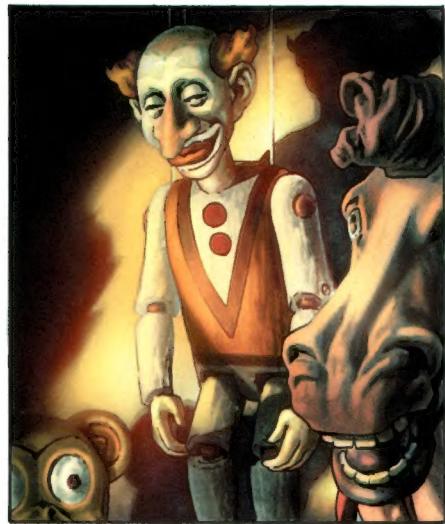
...it's like a thick wall  
keeping them from  
where they wanna go.



Other  
guys, well,  
they break  
through.



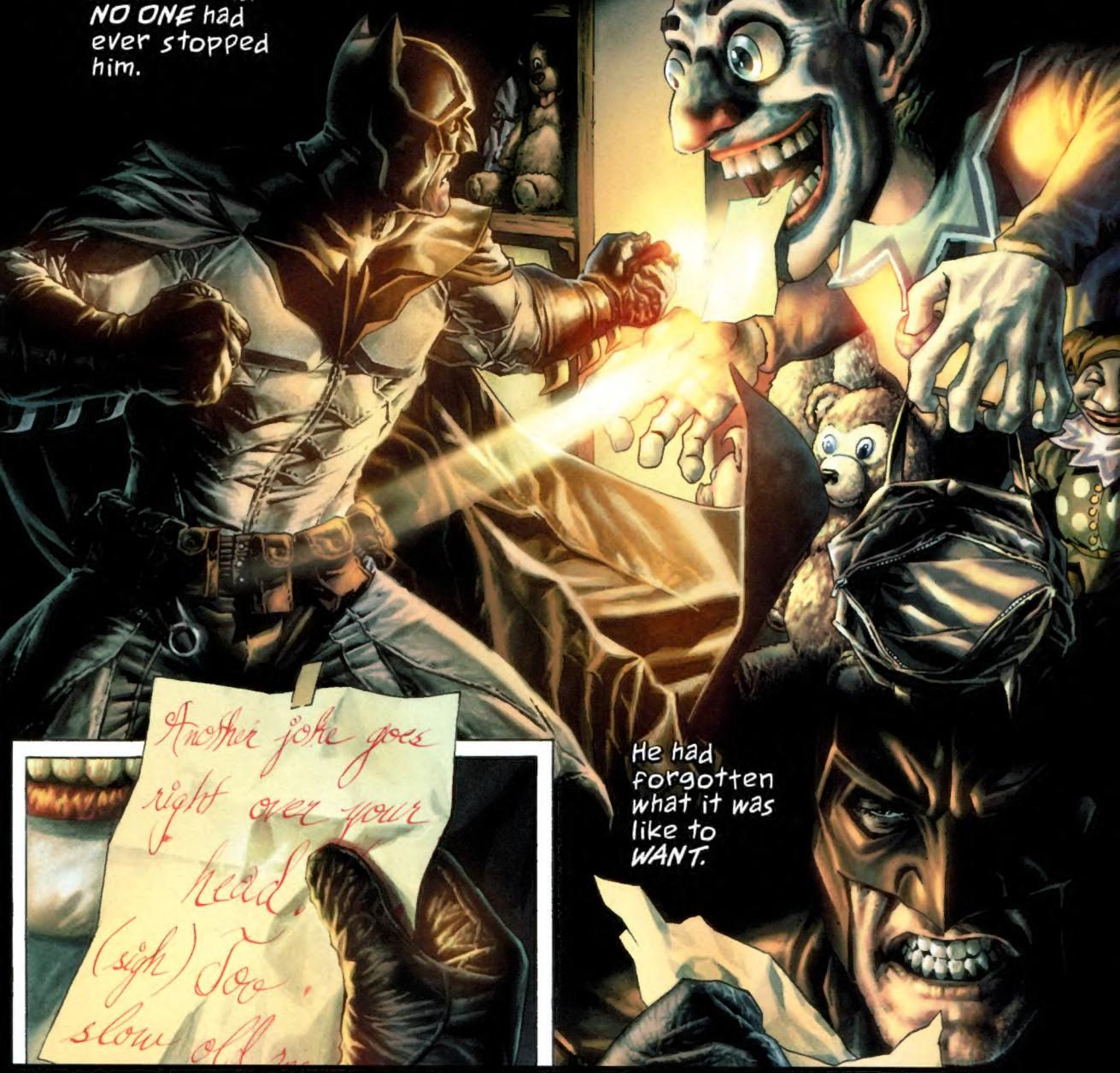
They let the  
fear **DRIVE** them.



Scrooge  
was this  
kind of  
fella.



NOTHIN' and  
NO ONE had  
ever stopped  
him.



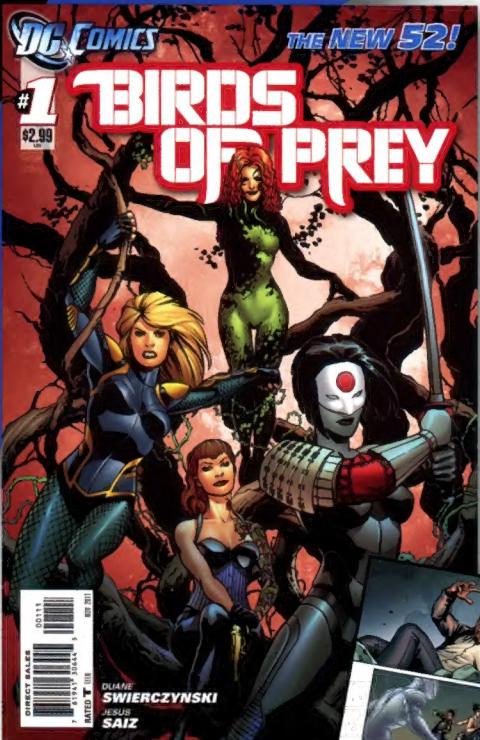
Another joke goes  
right over your  
head.

(sigh) See,  
slow off...

He had  
forgotten  
what it was  
like to  
WANT.

CONTINUED IN

**BATMAN NOËL** AN ORIGINAL GRAPHIC NOVEL  
IN STORES NOVEMBER 2011



## BIRDS OF PREY

DUANE SWIERCZYNSKI

(writer)

JESUS SAIZ

(artist)

1. What do you love about writing/drawing these characters?

Jesus: *I love the challenge of drawing a group of four women and being able to give each one of them her own personality.*

Duane: *This all-new lineup of the Birds—Black Canary, Katana, Poison Ivy, and Starling—is just a fun mess of conflicting personalities...you almost don't need a villain!*

2. What is your favorite thing about your part in the New 52?

Jesus: *I guess every artist likes that his "oeuvre" stays in the memory of his audience, that it has some significance. So having the chance to be a part of an event like this one is a real privilege.*

Duane: *I'm relishing the opportunity to try something new with a much-beloved team. The best part was being able to create a new character—Starling—with Jesus.*



3. Can you tease the villains they will be fighting? What villains would you like to draw?

Duane: *I don't want to give too much away, but there are a ton of them, and they have this creepy invisibility thing going on.*

Jesus: *I've always loved to draw monsters. So from Killer Croc to anybody else, I'm good with any villain if he/she/it has a bizarre look!*

4. What new thing are you doing with these characters?

Jesus: *Well, most of the lead characters are different from the ones we had before, so the main change would be that one: the new dynamics between the characters.*

Duane: *I wanted to give each Bird a specific reason to join the team. For instance, why would someone like Poison Ivy hitch up with a do-gooder like Black Canary?*

5. How will you shock readers?

Jesus: *I think the part that is really going to impress readers is Duane's work. This man is a genius when it comes to using the action scenes to move the story forward while giving it more depth.*

Duane: *I'll go for a shock once in a while...but I really want to surprise the hell out of readers. If they can guess what's coming, why would they bother to keep reading?*

5.2 What is your favorite thing about this first issue and why?

Jesus: *Page 18, because it's that moment in the middle of a really fast-paced story when it all becomes almost intimate. It's about the only moment when this comic book lets you stop and catch your breath.*

Duane: *The page where Starling dukes it out with a pack of our mysterious killers. We got dented metal, bustin' glass, gunfire...and Jesus makes it all so kinetic and crazy.*



BIRDS OF PREY—DUANE SWIERCZYNSKI & JESUS SAIZ  
CAPTAIN ATOM—JT KRUL & FREDDIE WILLIAMS II

## CAPTAIN ATOM

JT KRUL (writer)

FREDDIE WILLIAMS II (artist)

1. What do you love about writing/drawing this character?

JT: *Nathaniel may have these limitless powers, but he's a regular guy, and he's isolated and alone in many ways. I like writing characters that feel removed from those around them. Being different isn't always a fun thing, but it's definitely compelling stuff for me.*

Freddie: *Captain Atom is an elegant, powerful interloper in the grittiness of the real world; I love trying to capture that in the visuals!*

2. What is your favorite thing about your part in the New 52?

JT: *Honestly, my playmates. Working with Freddie is proving to be one of the most collaborative experiences in my comics career to date, and the entire team has been great.*

Freddie: *The excitement of it all! It's a pleasure to work on a book with such varying themes, themes that you don't normally see in a super hero book, in a launch as unprecedented as the New 52!*

3. Can you tease the villains he will be fighting?

JT: *His threats will not be your usual fare. Part of the dilemma for Captain Atom will be how his own abilities affect the world around him. It's not always a matter of what can he do, it's what should he do.*

Freddie: *He must face enemies ranging from forces of nature to rampaging power armor to himself.*

4. What new thing are you doing with this character?

JT: *Captain Atom has long been a team player, but with this book, he is a man alone. If you can even call him a man anymore.*

Freddie: *We are keeping the super hero themes but applying science fiction themes and elements of the esoteric.*

5. How will you shock readers?

JT: *Right out of the gate, this book is going to have a very different vibe than what people might expect. It's got a creepiness to it, a horror element lurking in the shadows.*

Freddie: *The visual approach I'm taking is completely experimental for me. From a new inking approach to new storytelling mechanics, I want readers to feel the difference from my older work, both*

*for my artistic growth and to bring a unique feel to the world!*

5.2 What is your favorite page in the first issue and why?

JT: *The last page. It's got it all—action, energy, power, emotion. And it shows that all bets are off with this book.*

Freddie: *Early in the issue, Captain Atom realizes that flying around zapping bad guys is not the only application of his power. That is my favorite moment—new doors are suddenly open to him. Now, not even the sky's the limit!*



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JT KRUL  
FREDDIE WILLIAMS II

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**W**hen you're smack dab in the middle of something, you sometimes don't realize how special or meaningful it is. But hearing the growing anticipation from readers and freelancers alike and then seeing the huge success our first month of the New 52 was, I can't help but step back and feel a certain level of awe at all that's been accomplished. And we're only getting started!

You've seen and heard plenty about some of the more familiar titles I work on, like ACTION COMICS, SUPERMAN and WONDER WOMAN, and truth be told, these aren't books that need any help—they've turned out amazingly well (as I hope you know by now)! But working on the New 52 has given me the chance to diversify a little, and thanks to the well-deserved promotions of Chris Conroy and Wil Moss to Associate Editor, I've been able to give up SUPERBOY and SUPERGIRL and work on some more offbeat titles like I, VAMPIRE, SWAMP THING, and DEMON KNIGHTS. Since I've written about VAMPY (as we like to call it) recently on the DCU blog, and you'd have to be hiding under a rock not to have heard the buzz about SWAMPY (see a trend?), I wanted to wax a little about DEMON KNIGHTS (no clever title shortening here—any suggestions?).

Paul Cornell, the madman behind Lex Luthor's "Black Ring" saga in ACTION COMICS, was invited to write a new Demon series. Our only request: that it be set in the dark ages of the DCU. What Paul came back with was a whole team around the Demon, with Etrigan and his reluctant host Jason Blood in the unlikely role of leader. With two issues in your hands, I think you can see he's not only brought a whole new take to the team dynamic, but he's built a living, breathing world where events from the dark ages will/have/did have an important impact on the goings-on of today's new DCU (unless you thought their cameo in STORMWATCH #1 was an oversight). Of course, all he's written would be just words if not for Diogenes Neves, Oclair Albert and Marcelo Maiolo, who've brought this world to life in a way I didn't dare to hope. I love this book, I hope you do, too, and if you haven't checked it out, perhaps these spotlights from issues # 2-4 will tempt you. Let me know what you think!

--Matt Idelson



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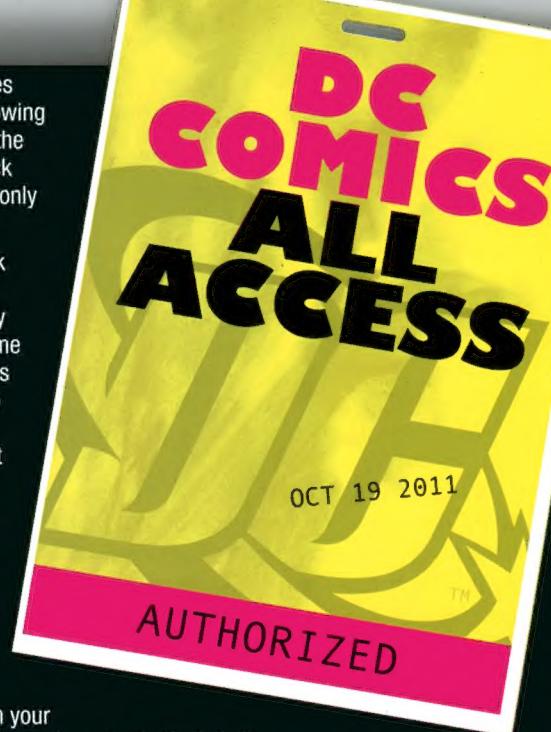
**BATMAN** 2. December 2011. Published monthly by DC Comics, 1700 Broadway, New York, NY 10019. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to BATMAN, DC Comics Subscriptions, P.O. Box 308, Congers, NY 10520. Annual subscription rate (12 issues) \$24.99. Canadian subscribers must add \$12.00 for postage and GST. GST # is R129521072. All foreign countries must add \$12.00 for postage. U.S. funds only. Copyright © 2011 DC Comics. All Rights Reserved. All characters featured in this issue, the distinctive likenesses thereof and related elements are trademarks of DC Comics. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. DC Comics does not read or accept unsolicited submissions of ideas, stories or artwork. This book is manufactured at a facility holding chain-of-custody certification. This paper is made with sustainably managed North American fiber. For Advertising and Custom Publishing contact dcomicsadvertising@dcomics.com. For details on DC Comics Ratings, visit [dcomics.com/go/ratings](http://dcomics.com/go/ratings).

Printed by Transcontinental Interglobe, Beaconsfield, QC, Canada. 10/7/11.



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# THE PROLETARIAT

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